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Pender County

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Annual Report

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1965

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE
Burgaw, North Carolina

F O R E W O R D

At the close of each year the Pender ASC County Committee publishes an annual report to keep the public abreast of ASCS operations in the county. ASCS is an organization developed for the purpose of achieving the greatest possible protection and improvement of the natural resources of the farms of our nation. The goal of the organization at all times is to assure the farmers a fair share of the national income.

We have attempted to give a brief explanation of each of the programs administered by the Pender County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service during 1965. We hope that through this report we can promote a clearer understanding of ASCS's purpose and function.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts put forth by the community committeemen, farmers, other agricultural agencies, our fieldman, and the State ASCS Office Staff to make our operation a success in Pender County during 1965.

Countryman's God

Who reaps the grain and plows the sod
Must feel a kinship with his God:

For there's so much on earth to see
That marks the hand of Deity.

When blossom springs from tiny shoot:
When orchard yields its luscious fruit:

When sap is running from great trees -
On all occasions such as these

The man who breathes fresh country air
Must know full well that God is there.

Roger Winship Stuart

THIS REPORT IS DEDICATED TO THE FARMERS OF PENDER COUNTY

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A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or ASCS, is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is responsible for administering farm programs enacted by Congress and regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The programs administered by the Pender County ASCS Office in 1965 included the Agricultural Conservation Program, Conservation Reserve Program, the Price Support Programs, Production Adjustment Program, and Compliance.

The State ASC Committee is composed of five members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The State Committee is responsible for ASCS policy determination at the state level. State ASCS offices are operated by state executive directors. Representatives from the state offices known as farmer-fieldmen serve county offices by districts. These men serve as liaison for state and county offices through their guidance on technical problems.

County ASCS offices are under the direction of managers who are hired by farmer-elected county committees. Elections are held annually for the purpose of electing a 3-man committee to serve for the entire county, and a 3-man committee to serve for each ASCS community in the county. Pender County consists of 15 communities.

The County Committee and community committeemen are called upon continuously to furnish assistance on farm problems to their neighbors although they receive compensation for the actual time worked in an official capacity.

C O U N T Y C O M M I T T E E

The purpose of the county committee is to direct the administration of all ASCS programs, inclusive, of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the Sugar Act of 1948, the Soil Bank Act and any amendments to such Acts, and such other acts of Congress as the Secretary of Agriculture or Congress may designate. The county committee is assisted by the community committee and other personnel employed by the county committee in carrying out the duties of ASCS.

People elected community committeemen elect each year the county committee composed of three regular members and two alternate members.

C O U N T Y C O M M I T T E E

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Jack M. Woodcock | Chairman |
| Roy M. Thomas | Vice-Chairman |
| W. C. Heath | Regular Member |

A L T E R N A T E S

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Thomas S. Cowan | First Alternate |
| James Moore | Second Alternate |

D I S T R I C T F A R M E R F I E L D M E N

William H. Byrd

J. N. Bryan, Jr.

PENDER COUNTY ASCS ORGANIZATION

COUNTY COMMITTEE

:
:
:

County
Office Manager

Casper Wells

:
:
:

Chief Clerk
General Clerk

ADM. & PS
Elizabeth H. Batson

:
:
:

:
:
:

Program Clerk
ACP-CR

Herminea J. Spender

:
:
:

AA & MQ Clerk
AA & MQ

Lucille Rivenbark

:
:
:

Program Clerk
AA & MQ

Elsie English

:
:
:

General Clerk
PERFORMANCE-COUNTER

Florine W. Howard

C O M P L I A N C E S U P E R V I S O R

Floyd W. Dale

A S S I S T A N T C O M P L I A N C E S U P E R V I S O R S

Lawrence Chadwick

Billy W. Savage

R E P O R T E R S

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Murray Batson | John E. Martin |
| Allen Baker | Joseph Newkirk |
| William Burns | Armenius Pigford |
| Samuel Casey | Michael Rackley |
| Connell Cunningham | David Sanderson |
| Richard DeBose | Rowe Sawyer |
| Vernon Ray Eakins | Benjamin Spencer |
| Jimmy Faison | Cecil Thomas |
| James Henry Faison | Howard Walker, Jr. |
| Richard Harrell, Jr. | Austin Wheeler |
| Edward Allen James | John C. Wilson |
| Willie McGee | |

T E M P O R A R Y O F F I C E P E R S O N N E L

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Elna Batson | General Clerk |
| Mary Ann Batson | Planimeter Clerk |
| Sandra Brown | Planimeter Clerk |
| Judith Ann Futch | Planimeter Clerk |
| Gladys James | Planimeter Clerk |
| Delores Jordan | Planimeter Clerk |
| Goldie Marshall | Planimeter Clerk |
| Peggy Martin | Planimeter Clerk |
| Edna Walker | Planimeter Clerk |
| Nellie Walker | Planimeter Clerk |



1965 ASC COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN

BURGAU UPPER

Thomas S. Cowan
S. J. Harrison
John Burns

BURGAU LOWER

Wiley Batson
John Leimone
Marvin Robinson

CANETUCK

B. Z. Corbett
Gordon Pridgen
Earl Moore

CASWELL

M. F. Kelly, Jr.
James V. Eakins
Lee Roy Johnson

COLUMBIA UPPER

James W. Moore
Harry Gurganious
Paul Wells

COLUMBIA LOWER

Geo. H. Highsmith
Glendon Wells
David Kelly

GRADY

L. H. Caison
Mack L. Bell
Fred White

HOLLY UPPER

Odell Noble
Jasper Pierce
Major Meadows

HOLLY LOWER

H. L. Saunders
Jerry Ward
Arthur Sawyer

LONG CREEK

Herbert Wagstaff
DeLeon Fennell
Tim Rivenbark

ROCKY POINT

R. L. Batts
Robert Worrell
Elmore Rogers
A. A. McLendon

TOPSAIL UPPER

Woodie Batts
William Edens
Robert King

TOPSAIL LOWER

N. C. Thomas
J. A. Sanders
T. W. Shingleton

UNION UPPER

Armenius Pigford
James Giddens
J. A. Farrior, Jr.

UNION LOWER

O. E. Pate
R. E. McCoy
C. T. Carr



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our Nation must be protected and conserved. This is essential in order that farms and ranches will continue to have the capacity to produce sufficient food and other raw materials to meet the future needs of the Nation.

All the people of this Nation, not the farmers and ranchers alone, have a stake in and a part of the responsibility for protecting and conserving our farm and ranch lands. Recognizing this, the Congress appropriates funds to share with farmers and ranchers the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation measures. The Agricultural Conservation Program is the means of making this Federal Cost-sharing available to farmers and ranchers.

Productive soil, adequate water, and well-managed woodland are the very foundation of American agriculture. The Agricultural Conservation Program is the means through which all our people including farmers, share the costs of conserving these essential national resources. This program increases the rate of application of the research, education, technical, credit, and other services of the Department of Agriculture in actual accomplishment of essential conservation work on the land.

Pender County's allocation for the 1965 AC Program was \$44,432. Of this amount, \$2,022 was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service, \$175 to the Forest Service to pay for the technical services performed for the Pender County AC Program. The farmers used approximately \$38,937, which represents 462 farms taking advantage of the AC assistance.



| PRACTICE | No. Farms Partici- pating | No. of Units | Amount of Assist- ance |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Permanent Cover - Other | 114 | 349 | 7,904 |
| Liming Materials | 215 | 2,276 | 17,813 |
| Tree Planting - Forest | 6 | 31 | 372 |
| Tree Planting - Erosion | 1 | 2 | 16 |
| Livestock Dams | 4 | 4 | 303 |
| Open Drainage | 37 | 275 | 4,503 |
| Irrigation Reservoirs | 4 | 4 | 530 |
| Enclosed Drains | 18 | 56 | 3,145 |
| Winter Cover | 228 | 1,940 | 3,891 |
| Summer Cover | 35 | 231 | 460 |

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Number of farms | 462 |
| Farmland | 63,425 |
| Cropland | 24,668 |
| Non-crop Pasture | 163 |



COMPLIANCE

Compliance is one of the most important functions of ASCS. Since stabilization and conservation of our farms and their production is our main goal, on the farm compliance must be insured for its achievement.

Before measurement can be started, reporters have to be secured and thoroughly trained. For the compliance activities for 1965 a total of 24 reporters were employed. Five part-time employees were hired in the office to planimeter and compute acreages.

Measuring acreage under ASCS covers most of the year beginning with premeasurement and lasting through disposition of peanuts.

NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR PREMEASUREMENT RECEIVED

| Total Farms | Flue-Cured Tobacco | Cotton | Peanuts | Wheat - Feed Grain |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|
| 237 | 233 | 9 | 4 | 6 |

REGULAR COMPLIANCE WHICH WAS PERFORMED

| Name of Crop | No. of farms Measured | Acres Measured | No. of farms Remeasured |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Wheat- Feed Grain | 948 | 11,708 | 0 |
| Cotton | 149 | 86 | 0 |
| Flue-Cured Tobacco | 1,218 | 2,603 | 12 |
| Peanuts | 282 | 942 | 0 |
| Soil Bank Base Crops | 78 | 764 | 0 |



CONSERVATION RESERVE

GENERAL

ASC Committees administer the remaining phase of the soil bank program - the conservation reserve program. This consists of servicing existing contracts, since 1960 was the last year of accepting additional land under the program.

This program was designed to retire cropland from production for a period of years and to conserve and build soil. It was installed as a temporary measure to store up potential productive resources that will be badly needed in a few years and to help reduce the temporary surpluses in certain commodities. Through the program, farmers are paid an annual payment of the acreage put in reserve and also receive payment for part of the cost of putting the land to a conservation use. A producer signed a three, five or ten year contract.

If a satisfactory cover crop was growing on the land designated as the conservation reserve, it could be signed up for a three year period. However, if it was necessary for the Government to assist the producer in establishing a satisfactory cover crop, the minimum number of years he might place the land in the conservation reserve was five. If he desired to plant trees, it was necessary for him to sign a ten-year contract.

In addition to the objective of assisting in controlling the production of specific agricultural commodities determined to be in surplus supply, this program has as its further objective to conserve our natural resources and provide farmers an opportunity to place all of their eligible cropland in this program and retire or seek off-the-farm employment.

Some of these contracts expire each year through 1969, with the largest expirations at the end of 1964 and 1968.



The following is a cumulative total of the Conservation Reserve Program in Pender County for the years 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, and 1965:

| <u>Number of Contracts</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Annual Payments</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 78 | 2,743 | \$ 34,503 |

Cumulative total of practices for the years 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, and 1965:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| A-2 Permanent Cover | 247 |
| A-7 Forestry Tree Cover | 2,774 |
| Natural Cover | 1,090 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 4,111 |



I N F O R M A T I O N

Public relations is a very important phase of our work and we are ever conscious of the good that can be accomplished through public relations.

During the year of 1965, in addition to directly administering the farm programs of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Pender County ASCS Office has endeavored to tell the people what we have done, how we have done it, why it was necessary and what benefits have been obtained. The county committee, community committee, and office personnel do everything within their power to keep all farmers currently advised on the programs administered by ASCS.

During the year of 1965, the Pender County ASCS Office mailed out newsletters, made spot announcements over Radio Station WPGF, Burgaw, and presented TV programs over Station WECT TV in Wilmington. In addition, the Pender Chronicle published 60 news releases in 1965.

By endeavoring to maintain good public relations, we feel that we have accomplished one of our main objectives.



PRICE SUPPORT

Government price support programs are administered by ASCS to aid the farmer in obtaining a fair price for what he produces and to promote orderly marketing.

ASCS county offices are authorized to make warehouse and farm storage loans, as well as enter into purchase agreements with eligible producers of grains.

The price support program on cotton is carried out by ASCS through the making of warehouse stored loans to eligible producers. In the absence of warehouse space, ASCS may make loans on farm-stored cotton.

A loan program on farm-stored cottonseed is available through ASCS county offices to eligible farmers. A purchase program is also available for direct purchases from producers and for purchases from participating ginneries.

Peanut support is available through loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers and also through direct loans to peanut producers. All work in connection with loans which are made direct to farmers is done by State and county ASC committeemen.

Tobacco support is available through tobacco loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers which, in turn, make advances to eligible producers either directly or through auction warehouses.



FARM STORAGE FACILITY AND MOBILE DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

Since 1949 ASCS county offices have operated a loan program on storage and drying equipment. To help farmers to provide for storing commodities to be placed under price support, loans are made available to producers to finance the purchase of farm storage facilities and mobile drying equipment. Under these loans farmers can borrow up to 85 percent of the cost of new storage bins, excluding the cost of erection, and up to 95 percent of the delivered and assembled cost of mobile drying equipment. Loans on farm storage facilities are repayable in four equal annual installments and loans on dryers are repayable in three equal annual installments. These loans bear interest at the rate of 4 percent per annum.

SUMMARY OF FARM STORAGE FACILITY AND MOBILE DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS DISBURSED

January 1, 1965

December 31, 1965

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Number of loans disbursed during period | <u>21</u> |
| 2. Capacity of loans during period | <u>101,025</u> |
| 3. Amount of loans disbursed during period | <u>\$ 39,198.82</u> |

MOBILE DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Number of loans disbursed during period | <u>21</u> |
| 2. Amount of loans disbursed during period | <u>\$ 19,249.73</u> |



PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

GENERAL

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as enacted on February 6, 1938, contained the first authorization for our present acreage allotment and marketing quota program. The Act authorizes acreage allotments and marketing quotas on wheat, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, and rice. Prior to 1959, the Act also permitted acreage allotments on corn. However, as a result of the Agricultural Act of 1958 and a vote by farmers in the commercial corn area, acreage allotments and a commercial corn producing area were not established for 1959 and subsequent crops of corn.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas were designed as a means of keeping supplies of agricultural commodities in line with demand. Marketing quotas must be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting in a referendum before they may be placed in effect. Marketing quotas are administered by use of farm acreage allotments; however, acreage allotments are required by law for some commodities even though marketing quotas are not in effect. This is necessary in order to determine the farm's eligibility for price support when quotas are not in effect.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas are administered as follows:

1. The Secretary of Agriculture determines the amount of cotton, tobacco, peanuts, wheat or rice needed and proclaims this as the quota or allotment.
2. This amount is divided among the states and counties generally on the basis of the past history of growing the commodity.
3. Each farmer receives his share of the national quotas as an acreage allotment based on the production history of the farm.
4. The crop planted on the farm is measured to determine whether or not the farmer is within his allotment.
5. A marketing card is issued to identify the commodity when the farmer goes to market.



T O B A C C O

Pender County had 1630 farms in 1965 with an established flue-cured tobacco allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 2781.80 acres. There was a twenty percent cut for 1965, later an eighteen percent increase.

There were only 1196 of our farms harvesting tobacco in 1965.

We had eight farmers in Pender County who filed an application for a new grower allotment for tobacco for the year 1965. Six of these were eligible and received allotments amounting to 4.12 acres.

The lease and transfer program for tobacco was still in effect for 1965. A written request signed by all interested parties had to be filed with the county committee by April 1, 1965. We had 355 farmers who took advantage of this lease and transfer program in 1965, leasing a total of 317.98 acres, of which 294.78 acres were transferred to 242 farms. This resulted in a loss of 23.20 acres due to the difference in the normal yields between the farms.

An Acreage-Poundage Program was approved by growers in a referendum in May, 1965, to be in effect for the next three crop years, 1965 - 1967. Under this program a farmer is limited to the pounds established for his farm as well as the acreage allotted. Each farm had a marketing quota established for his farm based on the yields for his farm for the five years 1959-1963. The total pounds for our county for 1965 was 5,003,511 pounds.

Under the Acreage-Poundage Program if all the pounds are not sold, the farm receives credit for this undermarketing and this can be sold the next year. We had 422,725 pounds undermarketed in 1965. On the other hand, a farm was allowed to sell up to 10 percent above the established marketing quota if he desired. This overmarketing is taken from the marketing quota for the next year. We had 119,119 pounds overmarketed in 1965.

There were no farms remaining in excess of their allotment for the year 1965.



C O T T O N

In 1965 we had 147 farms with a cotton allotment, as compared to 221 farms in 1964. Total allotment on these farms was 296.0 acres. Our cotton allotments have been greatly reduced both in size and in number of farms due to our farmers failing to plant. According to the cotton marketing quota regulations, farmers must plant or release their cotton each year in order to maintain their full allotment.

The following is a summary of the Release and Reapportionment of cotton in our county for 1965:

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of farms releasing allotments..... | 40 |
| Total acreage released | 84.3 |
| Number of farms receiving released acreage | 7 |
| Total acreage reapportioned in county | 17.4 |
| Acreage surrendered to State Committee | 59.2 |
| Total acreage released on CR farms | 7.7 |

There was a Cotton Domestic Allotment Program available to farmers in 1965. Farmers were eligible to receive a price support payment by signing up to participate in this program. The price support payment was paid to farmers for the cotton they had planted. The payment rate was 4.35 cents per pound. The average payment in our county was \$13.00 per acre. We had 40 producers to sign up under this program. They received a total payment of \$1,111.00.

We did not have any cotton farms remaining in excess of their allotment in 1965.

A Cotton Referendum was held on December 15, 1964, to determine whether farmers favored marketing quotas for the 1965 crop of cotton. Quotas were approved in the referendum and therefore were in effect for the 1965 crop. There were 107 of our farmers who voted in the referendum. Of these, only two voted against marketing quotas for the 1965 crop. Forty-one percent of our eligible producers voted in the referendum.



P E A N U T S

For the year 1965 we had 213 farms with an established peanut allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 1302.7 acres. The average size peanut allotment was 6.0 acres. Although peanuts are an allotted crop, any producer may plant up to 1.0 acre without being penalized, providing he does not share in peanuts on any other farm. We had 54 farmers to take advantage of this privilege in 1965, planting a total of 43.5 acres of peanuts.

If a producer does not want to plant his peanuts he can release them to the county committee to be reapportioned to other farms in the county. The following is a summary of the release and reapportionment of peanuts in our county for 1965:

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of farms releasing allotments | 17 |
| Total acreage released | 93.2 |
| No. farms receiving released acreage | 62 |
| Total acreage reapportioned in county | 93.2 |

We did not have any requests for a 1965 new grower peanut allotment.

Peanuts are considered one of the basic cash crops in our county. In 1965, there were 942.1 acres of peanuts harvested. Total production from this acreage was 1,178,610 pounds, resulting in a yield per acre of 1251 pounds. This compares with a yield of 1204 pounds per acre in 1964.

On November 23, 1965, a referendum was held to determine whether farmers favored marketing quotas for the 1966, 1967, and 1968 crop of peanuts. Quotas were approved. There were 69 of our farmers who voted in the referendum. This represented thirty-three percent of the eligible peanut producers in the county.



W H E A T

Pender County had 325 farms with an established wheat allotment for the year 1965. The total allotment for these farms was 900.2 acres.

Marketing quotas were not in effect for the 1965 crop of wheat. Therefore, farmers could plant as much wheat as they wanted without paying penalty on wheat planted above the wheat allotment established for their farm.

We did not have any producers requesting new grower wheat allotments for the year 1965.

The 1965 Wheat Program was a voluntary program whereby the farmers who produced an acreage of wheat within their farm allotment could divert acreage from wheat to approved conservation uses, in addition to the farm's normal conserving base.

The principal objectives were: (1) To raise the income of wheat growers; (2) To avoid increases in the government costs of wheat programs; (3) To maintain the costs of wheat to flour millers and other processors at a level which will not increase the price of bread to consumers; and (4) To enable the United States to participate in the International Wheat Agreement.

Pender County had 136 with effective allotments of 326.0 acres participating in the 1965 Wheat Program. These farms diverted 319.0 acres, with diversion payments of \$5648.00. Price support payments of \$1138.00 were paid to 5 farms for planting 78.0 acres of wheat.



WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO:

Pender County Board of Commissioners and taxpayers of Pender County for our conveniently located office.

State Office Personnel who have been so cooperative and understanding in connection with our work and our many problems.

Our District Fieldmen, Mr. W. H. Byrd and Mr. J. N. Bryan, Jr. for their helpfulness, patience, and understanding.

Community committeemen for their loyalty, cooperation and advice.

The Pender Chronicle for relaying to the public ASCS articles and news.

Radio Station WPGF and TV Station WECT for their cooperation and coverage of our programs.

Other agricultural agencies for their unselfish cooperation in helping to make our program a success.

Vendors and others who have cooperated so faithfully and generously.

And last but by no means least, to the farmers of Pender County for their fine spirit of cooperation during 1965. We believe the understanding and public relations between the ASCS office and farmers of Pender County are unmatched.

Pender County ASCS Committee
and Office Personnel



